(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Free gas reserves of about 33 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) have been established in Assam. Steps taken for its utilisation include:—

(i) Preparation of a development scheme for exploitation of Adamtila and Banskandi gas fields.

(ii) Study/evaluation of various options e.g. Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) extraction, power generation, petro-chemicals etc. for utilisation of gas. Free gas produced from Lakwa-Lakhmani Geleki and Rudrasagar fields is partly fed to gas grid and rest supplied to the local consumer.

Assessment of damage caused by Cyclone

*76. SHRI ANANTHA SETHI:
SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the damage caused to Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal by recent cyclone;

(b) if so, the details of damage to human being, roads, power, telecom, crops, cattle wealth, etc., State-wise;

(c) the State-wise grants and advance assistance extended by the Centre; and

(d) the progress of relief and rehabilitation measures as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):(a) and (b) The Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 affected the States of Orissa and West Bengal. According to the information received from the Government of Orissa, the Super cyclone reportedly resulted in loss of 9885 human lives and about 4.44 lakh animals, besides damage to 18.29 lakh houses and to cropped area of 18.43 lakh ha. Damage was also caused to telecom services, Roads and power lines. The Government of West Bengal have reported that due to the Super cyclone, 17000 rural houses were damaged and the value of damage is about Rs. 57.73 lakh in agriculture sector and about Rs. 94.98 lakh in the food processing and horticulture sectors. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not reported any damage due to the Super cyclone.

(c) Pending receipt of detailed Memorandum from the Government of Orissa, financial assistance of Rs. 400 crore (Rs. 200 crore as ad-hoc assistance from NFCR and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance) has been provided by the Government of India to the State Government of Orissa in the wake of Super Cyclone, which is in addition to the release of Rs. 42.50 crore as Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to the State for 1999-2000. Additional assistance of Rs. 300 crore more has been announced from NFCR. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999. Three quarterly

instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 33.39 crore have been released to the Government of West Bengal and the entire Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 107.69 crore has been released to the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) In Orissa, the relief and restoration measures have been undertaken on a national scale. The State Government have authorised the district Collectors to continue operation of free kitchens in areas where distress conditions are found to be prevailing on the basis of need assessment. Rice, kerosene oil and petroleum products have been supplied to the cyclone affected districts. Clothing and temporary shelter materials have also be supplied to the affected pockets. Availability of essential commodities in the affected areas has been ensured. The Government of West Bengal has reported that it is undertaking reconstruction measures through distribution of Summer rice minikit and betelvine.

Royalty on Crude Oil

*77. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the royalty on crude oil and gas is one of major sources of income of the state of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons for not revising the regular rate of royalty on crude oil for the block period 1993—96 and 1996—99;

(c) whether the question of revising rate of royalty on crude oil is under active consideration by Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof and upto what time the increased amount of royalty will be paid to the oil producing States including the State of Gujarat; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (e) Royalty on crude oil and gas is one of the sources of revenue to oil and gas producing States, including the State of Gujarat. Rates of royalty are notified by Central Government in accordance with Oil Field Regulation & Development Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time. For the periods 1993—96 and 1996—98, payments of royalty were made at the provisional rates of Rs. 528.00 per metric tonne and Rs. 578.00 per metric tonne, respectively. The provisional rate of Rs. 528.00 per MT for the period 1993—96 has since been revised to Rs. 539.80 per MT and payment of arrears has already been effected. For the period 1996—98, the provisional rate will be substituted by another rate on finalisation of the crude oil prices for the period, which would be done on receipt of audited figures on cost of production from Comptroller & Auditor General (C & AG). For the period after 1.4.1998, payments of royalty on crude oil have been made provisionally pending introduction of a new scheme of royalty, to be evolved in consultation with the State Governments. The provisional rates of royalty have been revised upwards